GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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Photograph by G. S. Urff

THE WATCH ON THE VINE

Vineyards along the Rhine require year-round attention, although grapes are gathered only in September. Of the many steps between vine and wine, a large proportion must be taken in the vineyard—weeding, pruning, and staking. A preference for slopes, especially sunny, southward-facing ones, is evident even in the German word for "vineyard" which is *weinberg*, or "wine-hill" (see Bulletin No. 1).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Arms and the Rhine

WHEN Nazi troops occupied the zone demilitarized by the Versailles Treaty, they marched in the footsteps of many earlier armies. The Rhineland was endowed by nature for a life of enjoyable and productive peace; yet it has been one of Europe's battlegrounds for over 2,000 years.

Its location, its productive soil, its mines, and above all its Rhine have made it Germany's Main Street and Promised Land rolled up into one 10,000 square miles. At the same time poets have sung of it as a Garden of Eden.

Small wonder that many have coveted it. Caesar crossed the Rhine as well as the Rubicon. Attila the Hun disturbed its peace, and Clovis fought along its banks. Charlemagne established the capital of his Empire at Aachen in the Rhineland. Napoleon's regiments swept triumphantly through. Pursuing the eagles of the Hohenzollerns went the French Tricolor in 1918. And now the Swastika waves from bridges, fortresses, medieval town halls, and dormer windows of quaint peaked houses.

Once Garrisoned by American Doughboys

A list of the flags which have flown in the Rhineland would not be complete without the Stars and Stripes. For four years a garrison of Americans, originally 200,000 strong, kept the "Wacht am Rhein" at Germany's Gibraltar, the old fortress of Ehrenbreitstein opposite Koblenz (Coblenz).

The Rhineland, now transformed from a demilitarized into a danger zone, embraces the territory west of the Rhine up to the boundaries of France, Belgium, and the Netherlands, and a 50-kilometer (31-mile) strip along the east bank. This is an important slice of Germany. The Rhineland, indeed, has been the dominant factor in the commerce, history, legend, music, and literature of the German people.

Although it rises in Switzerland, empties through the Netherlands, and has lost part of its west bank to France, the Rhine is essentially a German river. It winds 800 miles from Alps to ocean, creating picturesque scenes and prosperous activity wherever it goes. From Bingen to Koblenz it pours through a steep gorge of rocky crags crowned with robber-barons' ruined castles, blown up by the French more than a century ago.

Thereafter it broadens, bearing an increasing horde of steamers and tugs, and flows into the Netherlands as a spreading belt of greenish water almost a mile wide. Probably no other river in the world has been made to serve man more efficiently, for a system of canals and dredged channels enables it to carry a tremendous traffic of tourist steamers and barges burdened with coal, ore, and bulky freight.

Rhine Reaches Around the World in Song and Story

The Rhine, with its wealth of legends, is really the leading character of many internationally popular operas, especially Wagner's Ring Trilogy. Broadcasts of the Metropolitan Opera in New York have brought the Rhineland into many homes, with Siegfried, the Rhine Maidens, Lohengrin, Tannhauser, and Faust. The Lorelei siren has been famous since Brentano invented her in 1802 for a poem about a dangerous rock jutting into the Rhine, where the fabled Nibelungen treasure is hidden. Fairy stories, collected by Jacob and William Grimm in their adjoining studies in Frankfurt, are an element of the Rhineland's contribution to German literature. Goethe made Frankfurt a literary shrine.

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"FAIR BINGEN ON THE RHINE"—A CITY IN A STAGE SETTING

Bingen has been accumulating legends and ruins since days of Roman occupation. The Mäus Turm, or Mouse Tower, on the island (left) is an ancient toll station. According to legend Bishop Hatto was devoured there by rats in punishment for refusing food to starving citizens. Ruins of 13th century Ehrenfels Castle rise (above the left church spire) partway up the vine-terraced slopes of the Niederwald (see Bulletin No. 1).

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Vancouver, The Young Lady Who Lives in a Shoe

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, already the third city of Canada, will "let off steam" and excess youthful spirits this spring and summer when it celebrates its golden jubilee with pageants and parades, peanuts and popcorn. Commencing on March 24 and continuing until September, a carnival program will commemorate fifty years of steady growth.

Mix equal parts of southern England, the Swiss Alps, Atlantic City, the Norwegian fiords, and Broadway; add any other favorite "atmosphere"—but even then, say loyal Vancouverites, you will not have equalled the charm and scenic appeal of their city.

From an airplane passing over the city you would see that Vancouver is the young lady who lives in a shoe. The peninsula of Stanley Park is a shining buckle, Hastings Park is a green jewel on the instep, and she balances English Bay on her toe as she lightly taps the Strait of Georgia. The sole of her shoe extends along the north arm of the Fraser River and this stream also defines her curving French heel.

Many Outlying Suburbs and Towns

In the heart of the city, alligator-skin patterns of cross streets thickly gridiron the shoe. Vancouver, like the old lady in the nursery rhyme, is having so many children she doesn't know what to do. Her family of offspring towns and suburbs across Burrard Inlet has grown so rapidly that they are now flourishing in their own right. East and south, overflowing progeny are building houses, stores, and roads on their mother's outskirts.

Fortunately, the family has the largest city area in Canada over which to spread itself. In Canada, only Montreal and Toronto are greater cities than this cluster of man-made peaks and surrounding residential valleys, that roll away toward lofty mountains in the east, and toward water in all other directions—Burrard's Inlet on the north, the Strait of Georgia on the west, and the Fraser River on the south.

The humming center of town, at the junction of Hastings and Granville Streets, is the "Broadway and 42nd Street" of western Canada. Thereabout rise banks, stores, and modern skyscraper office buildings, numerous church steeples, and hospitals. Lady Vancouver has a smart, bustling, youthful confidence and an air of prosperity that make up for her lack of historic past. In 1901, her population was 29,432; now it is about 247,000.

Canada's Gateway to the Orient

North, beyond the forested crown of Stanley Park, lies the narrow blue strait leading into the port. It is called the Lions' Gate, after two snow-capped mountain humps, to the north of the Inlet, that resemble lions. In 1929, about 100,000,000 bushels of Canadian wheat passed through the Gate bound for the ports of Europe and the Orient. Vancouver's grain elevators could accommodate the whole wheat crop of Alberta. Besides wheat and flour, freighters carry away cargoes of copper, lead, zinc, paper, pulp, lumber, sealskins, canned and salt fish. Vancouver's export "crests" often correspond with weeks when Great Lakes ports are locked with ice.

Vancouver owes her position as a port to the coming of the transcontinental railways. They brought machinery and men to build the city, crops and manufactures to be trans-shipped.

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German culture has benefited by additional gifts from the Rhineland, such as Beethoven from Bonn, the pessimistic philosopher Schopenhauer from Frankfurt, and the distinguished printer-by-movable-type, Gutenberg. His printing offices, statue, and a museum illustrating the development of printing are preserved in Koblenz.

Some of Germany's greatest cities and illustrious towns are strung along the Rhine like jewels of a necklace. They include Mainz "the Golden," market for sparkling Rhenish wine: Coblenz, with its riverside shaded promenade so familiar to many American soldiers; Köln (Cologne), Rhineland's metropolis, with Germany's finest Gothic cathedral which was 600 years a-building; and Düsseldorf, where art flourishes beside iron, steel, and chemical works.

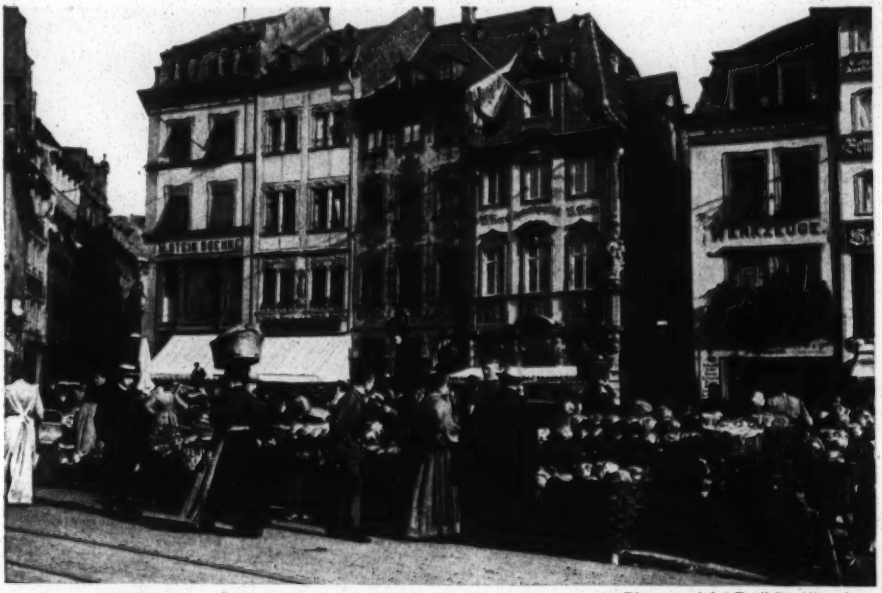
One of the most famous towns of its size in the world is Heidelberg, with the oldest college in Germany. This city of "Student Prince" fame is now an important medical center, although patients are outnumbered by visitors who come to see the University and the restored ruins of elaborate Heidelberg Castle.

Many medieval ruins have been repaired sufficiently to serve as youth hostels for the numerous students on walking tours through the Rhineland.

The Rhineland was for centuries the stronghold of the Franks, the virile Teutonic tribe which furnished the name and much of the population of France. Now a southern segment of the Rhineland is French territory, including the Rhineside city, Strasbourg.

Note: For supplementary material in connection with the recent Nazi march on the Rhineland see "What Is the Saar?," *National Geographic Magazine*, February, 1935; "Freiburg—Gateway to the Black Forest," August, 1933; "Flying the World," June, 1932; "Renascent Germany," December, 1928; "Rediscovering the Rhine," July, 1925; "The Story of the Ruhr," May, 1922; and "The Geography of Our Foreign Trade," January, 1922.

Bulletin No. 1, March 30, 1936.



Photograph by Emil P. Albrecht

CITY OF GUTENBERG'S PRINTING, MEISTERSINGERS, AND GOOD FOOD

The ancient open-air market of Mainz fostered local traditions of good living even before a 16th century citizen remarked that if he owned all Frankfurt he would still take his meals at Mainz. The city nestles in the Rhine valley opposite the mouth of the Main River.

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Åland Islands Plead for Peace

THE Aland Islands, whose strategic situation between Sweden and Finland has brought them repeatedly into world news, are again in the spotlight. European newspapers report that the islanders refuse to be burdened with fortifications and military garrisons. Proclaimed neutral fifteen years ago, they have resisted proposals from their neighbors of armed protection, and expressed determination to continue their peaceful course.

Forming a dividing zone between the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Bothnia, the Aland Islands have long been a buffer between the Scandinavian Peninsula and the European mainland.

Maps show the Alands in the same color as Finland, of which they form one of the nine departments or provinces; but the Swedish language is as commonly spoken among the inhabitants as Finnish. A glance into the history of the islands reveals that the Russians long dominated them, but few traces of this former control remain.

Nearly 300 Islands

In all, there are nearly 300 islands. About eighty of them are inhabited—the larger ones by farmers who live by their rye and potato crops and dairy herds; and the smaller ones by fishermen, whose tiny villages hug the shores. The uninhabited islands are mostly jutting rocks, which mean nothing to the islanders except as menaces to navigation.

The islands, including the barren, uninhabited rocks, have a combined area of 550 square miles. There are about 25,000 inhabitants, most of whom live in neatly kept buildings of logs or dressed lumber. In many villages, only the steepled church buildings are of stone construction.

Aland Island, the largest of the group, is 30 miles long from north to south and 17 miles broad. Despite these measurements, however, the coast is so deeply indented that few spots on the island are more than a few miles from a deep outlet to the open sea. Aland, unlike its neighbors, is largely covered with rich soil. Forests clothe many square miles with fir, spruce, and beech trees. Once the forests were favorite elk hunting grounds for Swedish sovereigns, but game now is almost extinct.

The open spaces on Aland are almost entirely used for farms. One recent visitor to the islands called the men of Aland "amphibious" because they were equally at home on land and on sea, whether behind a plow or at the helm of a boat.

Ports Usually Free of Ice

Mariehamn, capital of the Alands and the leading town, is on the southern coast of Aland. It has about 1,000 inhabitants. Several little towns are important because of their excellent harbors for they are not blocked by ice as long as those of Finland.

The islands belonged to Sweden in 1809, when they were ceded to Russia with the Grand Duchy of Finland on the mainland. They remained Russian until 1917 when the Finns declared themselves free of Russian domination. In that same year, the Aland Islands sought a change in government. The inhabitants, by an unofficial vote, indicated that they preferred to be reunited with Sweden. Finland granted the islands self-government in 1920, but refused to allow them to secede.

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Expanding industries include metal foundries, shingle-, saw-, paper-, and pulp mills, sugar refineries, clothing and food factories, breweries, machine shops and shipbuilding yards.

In Point Grey, a growing residential suburb at the toe of the shoe, is the campus of the University of British Columbia, with its famous agricultural school. Stanley Park, Vancouver's principal tourist attraction, a mile or two from the busiest part of the city, is a 1,000-acre wilderness. Fern-bordered paths twist among giant firs and cedars. Some trees are more than 50 feet in girth and tower over 250 feet in the race for sunlight and rain.

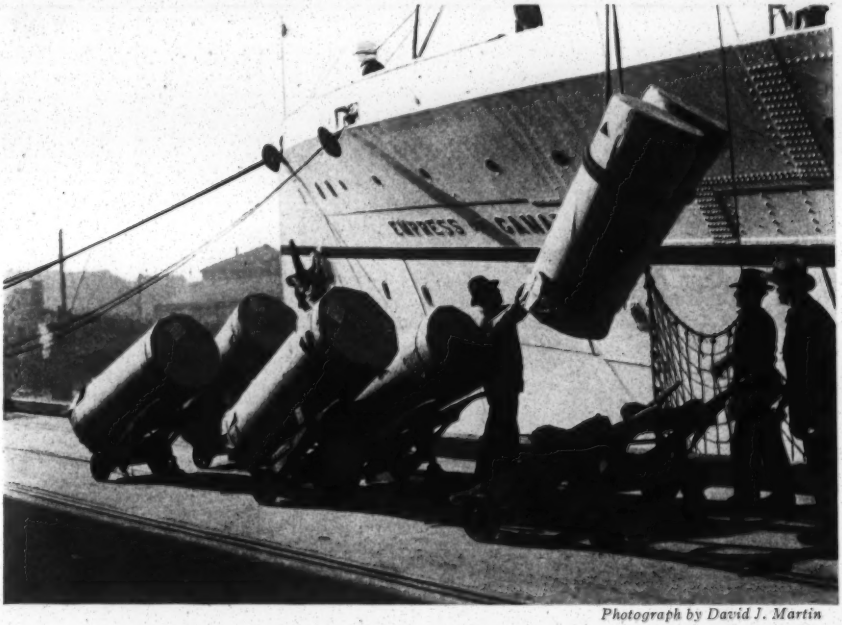
With Vancouver Island, across the Strait of Georgia, the mainland city shares the name of Captain George Vancouver, a famous early explorer of this region. Although Vancouver is British Columbia's largest city, Victoria, on Vancouver Island, is the capital of the Province.

Note: For additional photographs and data about Vancouver and the Province of British Columbia, see "'Nakwasina' Goes North," *National Geographic Magazine*, July, 1933; "Canada from the Air," October, 1926; and "The First Alaskan Air Expedition," May, 1922.

Bulletin No. 2, March 30, 1936.

New Material About Japan

Japan, which has been frequently in the news spotlight during recent weeks, is described and illustrated in a timely article by John Patric in the April, 1936, issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*. Supplementing this article, which has 29 illustrations, are 10 natural-color photographs of castles, shrines, and parks of Japanese pilgrimages. In the same issue is an article about one of the least visited parts of the world—mysterious Micronesia, Japan's mandated islands in the Pacific, by Willard Price.



Photograph by David J. Martin

VANCOUVER HAS ITS OWN WAY OF "GETTING OUT" NEWSPAPERS

Second only to Montreal in value of her shipping, Vancouver handles much of Canada's 70-million-dollar newsprint export business. Here huge rolls of paper are embarking for a journalistic career in the Orient. Fifty steamship lines ply between Vancouver and Japan, China, Australia, Honolulu, San Francisco, Seattle, Alaska, and elsewhere.

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Nature's Balance Often Is Easily Upset

Photograph by George Shiras, 3d.

START OF A STARLING

Another successful, but costly, British colonization of America.

GREAT BRITAIN'S Ministry of Agriculture has designated a new Public Enemy No. 1. "Trap him if you can, and shoot to kill!" This dangerous character is not a kidnaper, nor a murderer, nor a spy, but the little, far-too-numerous gray squirrel.

Although he seems harmless enough, the gray squirrel, nevertheless, devours baby birds and bird eggs, young shoots of trees, fruit tree buds, and ground crops.

Damage Done by Ground Squirrels

Ground squirrels, another rodent, do great damage to orchards and cultivated fields in the United States, especially in California. Even such tiny animals as these can upset Mother Nature, sometimes throughout an entire country.

A striking example of Nature's interconnections was the sudden increase of parrots in Western Australia a year ago. The small green birds became so numerous that a flock alighting on a roof sounded like a hailstorm, and the roof appeared to be painted green. Their great numbers were attributed by biologists to a preceding plague of grasshoppers, which inspired parrot parents to raise more offspring than usual.

That a complex chain of influence links practically all organic life is well known. The relation of flies to frogs, of chickens to hawks, is evident. The remote relation of cats to clover is more subtle. According to Darwin's famous explanation, in some places a large clover crop depends on a large number of cats. If it were not for cats killing field-mice, the mice would drive bumblebees away by destroying their combs and nests. Since bees are necessary to fertilize certain kinds of clover, it is obvious that no cats, mice; mice, no bees; no bees, no clover.

Fish and Buttons on Your Shirt

The relation between fish and the buttons on your shirt is not far to seek. Some years ago pearl-button makers on the Mississippi River looked harassed, for catches of clams were rapidly dwindling. Since buttons are cut from clamshells, this was no joke. Investigation disclosed that clams lead part of their life cycle as larvae attached to the gills of certain river fish, such as suckers. Fishermen had been depleting the fish population, not knowing they were depriving infant clams of a home. The button manufacturers, realizing that no fish, no clams; no clams, no buttons, hastily built up the fish population.

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The Alands have frequently drawn international attention, particularly during the last century. In 1854, during the Crimean War, French and British forces destroyed their leading fortress. Since then, the question of refortifying them has frequently been a subject of international parleys, including consideration by the League of Nations.

Note: See also "Where the Sailing Ship Survives," *National Geographic Magazine*, January, 1935; "Rounding the Horn in a Windjammer," February, 1931; and "The New Map of Europe," February, 1921.

Bulletin No. 3, March 30, 1936.

Fill the Pocket of Your Cumulative Index

Publication of the "1935 Supplement" brings up to date the new "Cumulative Index," listing articles, pictures, and maps in the *National Geographic Magazine* between January, 1899, and December, 1934. "The Cumulative Index," in paper binding, costs $1.00 and in cloth binding $1.50, postage included. "The Supplement," just released, which covers the year 1935, fits into the envelope pocket provided at the back of the Cumulative Index. Its price is 25 cents, postpaid. These can be obtained only from the *National Geographic Society*, Washington, D. C.

Photograph by Gustav Heurlin

EVERYTHING IS SHIPSHAPE IN AN ÅLAND ISLAND HOME

The sea's influence extends even into the houses in the Åland Islands, where sailing vessels still work for a living long after other countries have abandoned them. Double-deck beds, built like ship's berths into the wall behind the curtain at left, provide the farmer with some of the comforts of the quarterdeck. Women work indoors and out, making rag rugs, gathering driftwood, or helping in the dairy industry which exports quantities of cheese and butter. In the corner stands the family "grandfather" clock.

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The Great Rift Valley—A "Crack" Across Eastern Africa

NEWS reports tell of the discovery of a dead city overlooking the Great Rift Valley. Ruins of unknown antiquity were found stretching through ten miles of jungle. Massive stone structures, piled together without mortar, were described as toppling down and shrouded with a century's growth of forest.

Dilapidated remains of buildings still had decorations of rock carving, depicting animals which abound in the Great Rift Valley. The crocodile was apparently a special favorite.

So far, no definite explanation has been received to account for the dead city. It is simply another mystery in the annals of that unusual region, which itself is somewhat of a geographical mystery, albeit a far more lively one.

Cracked by Convulsion of Nature Millions of Years Ago

The Great Rift Valley is a "crack" in the continent, formed perhaps millions of years ago, geologists say, and extending all the way from the Zambezi Valley in South Africa to the Red Sea. The long, narrow Red Sea itself and the Dead Sea nearby are considered also parts of the Rift.

In Ethiopia the valley leads straight up from Britain's Kenya Colony through the southern highlands and a little to the east of Addis Ababa. In this part of the Rift Valley, cutting sharply up into Ethiopia's high central plateau, is a chain of eight lakes, like puddles along a deep rut in a muddy road after a rain (see map, next page). Around them lies some of Ethiopia's most fertile and pleasant country.

The lakes rise gradually like liquid stair steps. At the bottom, partially dry Lake Stefanie is only 1,945 feet above the sea, while Lake Abaya, 140 miles farther on, is 4,160 feet, and Lake Zwai, highest of the chain, is more than a mile above sea level. From Lake Zwai it is only 75 miles to Addis Ababa as the crow flies.

Some Lakes Salt, Others Fresh

Once the higher lakes may have drained into the lower ones, all perhaps feeding huge Lake Rudolf to the south, which juts up out of Kenya into Ethiopia's southwest corner, crossing boundaries in the Rift. At present some of the lakes are connected, but several have no known outlets and their water is slightly salty. Crocodiles thrive in some of the lakes, both fresh and salt, while in others they are mysteriously absent.

On either side of the Rift Valley and the chain of lakes, rise high mountain ranges and plateaus, with some summits reaching more than 13,500 feet on both east and west, nearly as high as Pikes Peak.

West of the chain of lakes, too, is Kafa Province, where much coffee is grown and which, tradition says, was the original home of coffee. Caravan trails from Kafa to Addis Ababa have some of Ethiopia's heaviest traffic, as laden camels carry coffee to the railroad for export.

In Kafa, too, some of the world's strangest stock farms produce musk, the base of many perfumes. On these farms civet cats, small fox-sized animals, are kept in captivity, and musk glands of each animal produce an ounce or two of the product per month. The musk is marketed always in ox horns.

Much of the country around the lake region was conquered by the Ethiopians only about half a century ago. In it live Galla and Somali tribes, some of them nomadic herdsmen and others cultivating small farms.

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Since the relation between most creatures is as delicately adjusted as the mechanism of a watch, man's attempt to regulate it to his satisfaction sometimes brings unforeseen results. Tired of being awakened by the fiendish whooping of certain kingfishers, Australians a few years ago began killing these "laughing-jackasses." They were rewarded by a sudden increase of snakes, which the birds had been helping to keep under control.

Photograph by Howard Taylor Middleton

UP AND DOWN TO BALANCE NATURE

From all appearances, this cat is pitching in to help Nature's balance by preventing a surplus of gray squirrels. But who will prevent a surplus of cats? Thus the balance problem goes, not only up and down, but around and around.

The farmer who shoots hawks may save his chickens, but he is likely to see his crops ruined by field mice and other rodents, which have multiplied unchecked.

Even in small numbers, certain mice injure orchards, nurseries, and root crops. But what damage they can do when they reach plague proportions was realized by Nevada farmers in 1907 and 1908. At that time, prairie mice caused damage estimated at $300,000. On many ranches, the mice, often 12,000 to the acre, riddled alfalfa fields with burrows until some fields had to be plowed up.

Just as extermination of certain animals may "upset the apple cart," similarly introduction of foreign species of animals may work havoc. The disastrous results of importing mongooses into Jamaica is outstanding. Cats imported into several islands to check rats are said to have multiplied into worse plagues than the rats. At present, felines prowl over the Island of Guam, menacing poultry.

Australia seems to have had more than its share of pests. But her most famous and for years her most sinister animal pest was the innocent-looking bunny. Sinister, because in five years, it has been estimated by some statisticians, the descendants of a single pair may reach several millions. Since seven rabbits consume as much grass as one sheep, rabbits, unrestricted, might eat up all the grass in Australia, displacing sheep and cattle.

Note: For additional references concerning some upsets of Nature see "Eagle, King of Birds and His Kin," *National Geographic Magazine*, July, 1933; "Crows, Magpies, and Jays," January, 1933; "Wild Life of the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts," September, 1932; "Exploring the Valley of the Amazon in a Hydroplane," April, 1926; "Tracking the Columbian Ground Squirrel to Its Burrow," May, 1925; "Protecting the United States from Plant Pests," August, 1921; "The Rat Pest," July, 1917; and "Lonely Australia: The Unique Continent," December, 1916.

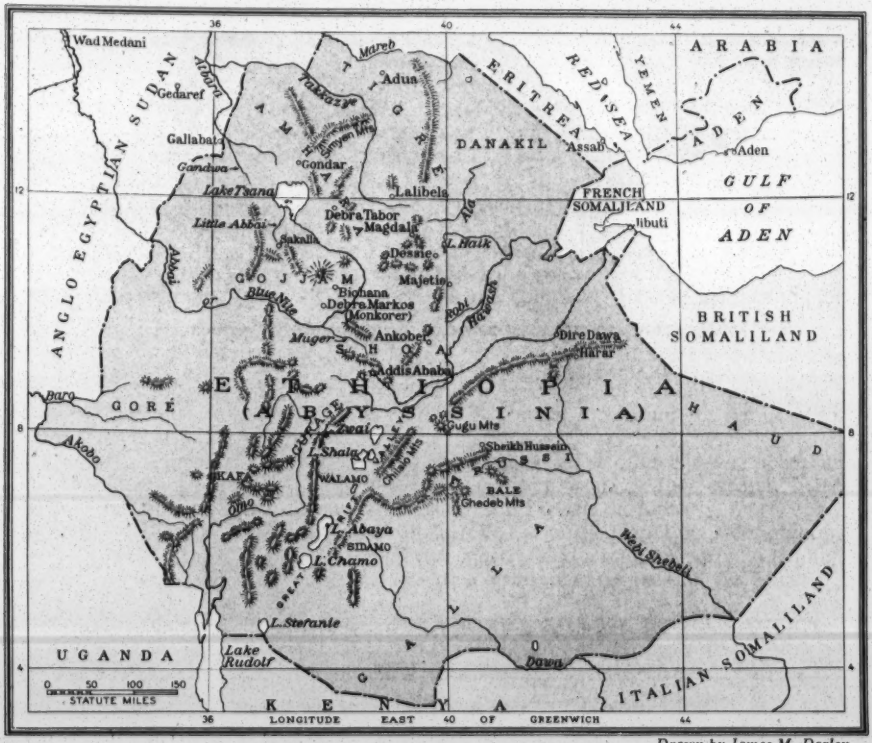
South of the lakes, along the border between Ethiopia and Kenya, is dry, inhospitable country, with only scattered wells. But farther northward, up the chain of lakes, are rolling, fertile plains, rich grass for stock grazing, and luxuriant forests.

Note: See also "Open-Air Law Courts in Ethiopia," *National Geographic Magazine*, November, 1935; "Traveling in the Highlands of Ethiopia," September, 1935; "National Geographic Society's New Map of Africa" and "Life's Tenor in Ethiopia," June, 1935; "Modern Ethiopia" and "Coronation Days in Addis Ababa," June, 1931; and "Nature and Man in Ethiopia," August, 1928.

Bulletin No. 5, March 30, 1936.

Price of Pictorial Geography Reduced

The Pictorial Geography series, consisting of enlarged photographs on durable paper, 10¾ by 9 inches, with accompanying text, have recently been reduced in price to make them available to a wider school field. The complete series of five sets, No. 1, "The Indian in America—The Negro in Africa"; No. 2, "Life in China—The Hill Tribes of the Philippines"; No. 3, "The Land, the Water, the Air"; No. 4, "The United States"; and No. 5, "Italy", totalling 220 black and white and 20 full-color sheets, can now be obtained postpaid for $2.00. Individual sets can be had for 50c each. Send check or money order to the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.



Drawn by James M. Darley

WHERE AFRICA'S "CRACK" SPLITS ETHIOPIA

The Great Rift Valley, bordered by mountain ranges and cradling a chain of lakes, enters Ethiopia with Lake Stefanie at the southwestern border and cuts across the country to the Red Sea. In the Valley one may now and then see elephants, rhinoceroses, hippopotamuses, ostriches, gazelles, and other wild game.